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Henry Hastings Hall to W S Hall, 12 September 1858

Hard-up Hill
Cathcart Sept^r 12

My dear Brother

I am surprised I have had no word from you since that doubtful note forwarded by Jas Turner which I received three weeks after it was written and did not answer thinking there was little probability of it finding you at Cochrans I have a letter for you from your venerable parent but shall not send it until I am certain of your whereabouts Taylor started for the first [?Rokewood] rush I have not seen him since and have scarcely heard of him which is rather too bad. I merely wished him to have a look at it and he was either to return or send for me, he has done neither and may now be in the other world for aught I know. I shall either go to him or come to you if you can offer me any encouragement. Affairs are in a miserable state here all who could have left long since, and the remainder not one in fifty is making *tucker*. I wore out my boots going to a new rush at a place called "Good Morning Bill"! It proved a most unmitigated [?Shicer] even the prospectors can scarcely make it pay, so I came back to the old spot a wiser and a poorer man. I don't know when I shall get to the Swan if I progress no faster than this. I've had a good many mates since Taylor left, but there is no more luck in a multitude than a single one. I have two [?stunners] now, a bleare-eyed costermonger a real buck nigger, but they'll soon get the sack if they don't turn up trumps. If I don't hear from you soon I shall address my next to Vancouver's Island or Fraser River. The fan and other things I have not been able to sell and could scarcely give away.

Believe me your affect

Brother

H H Hall

[In W S Hall's hand: "Gilpin, Middleton, Scotch speak to for my brother"]